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EDITORS' TABLE.

EDITORS: E. D. COPE AND J. S. KINGSLEY.

In most university work study and instruction naturally cease with the beginning of the long summer vacation. The broiling suns of July and August are not conducive to the study of Greek roots, or problems connected with the fourth dimension of space. With biological studies the summer is most important, for then is the time when the student, relieved from all other duties, can carry on uninterruptedly a course of study and investigation which supplements in an admirable manner the lectures, dissections, and demonstrations of the college year. As our colleges and universities are situated, it is extremely difficult to give the students, in term-time, any adequate idea of marine forms and their wonderful development,—points which are of great importance in a broad and well-balanced biological education. It is the recognition of this fact which has led to the establishment of marine laboratories along the eastern coast of the United States. In them are learned facts which could be obtained in no other way.

The importance of these laboratories or stations is recognized by every biologist, for in them a large part of the biological instruction is given, and in them a large portion of the original investigation is carried on. It is only a few years since there were none of these regularly established stations. Then the student went to some favorable spot, hired a building or a room on the shore, and conducted his researches with the most primitive apparatus, and under the most discouraging circumstances. In later years there have been various stations established, more or less permanently, and to these students have flocked from all parts of the Union. To show their importance no better example can be taken than the summer laboratory of Johns Hopkins University. This dates almost to the first year of the institution which supports it. It has constantly been conducted by Dr. W. K. Brooks at various points along the coast from the shores of the Chesapeake to the West Indies. The results it has accomplished can be seen by the various publications that have proceeded from it, and the positions now occupied by those who have availed themselves of the facilities it affords. In amount and character of its biological work the Johns Hopkins University has but few rivals in America, and it is safe to say that at least half of its prominence and prestige in this respect is due to the work done in its marine laboratory.

There is ample evidence that there is an increasing realization of the importance of these summer schools in connection with university instruction. Anything which should tend to lessen the present number would be deplorable. There should be more of them, and more money for their support. Not all institutions have the wealth or have trustees with the breadth of view necessary for the establishment of such stations; and yet similar facilities should be enjoyed by all. In such cases the deficiency should be met either by co-operation or by hiring tables at some established laboratory. As it now is, except the Johns Hopkins Laboratory and that of the United States Fish Commission, all of these stations are supported by individual efforts. The time, however, cannot be far distant when there will be more of these laboratories which will bear an intimate relationship to our colleges and universities. When that time comes biological instruction will be of a higher character, and the biological sciences will take a higher rank in the public estimation than they now do.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Review of Dr. H. Rink's Paper on the East Greenlanders.[1]—The following article is based on a consideration of the interesting conclusions deduced by Dr. Rink in his admirable paper on the East Greenlanders.

The first subject to be considered is the conclusion expressed concerning the original home of the Eskimo.

That Dr. Rink finds evidence tending to confirm the hypothesis that Alaska is the scene of their origin, and supports the statement in the fact that the Eskimo are not strictly confined to the littoral portions of Alaska, but on the mainland thrust themselves along the more important rivers to a greater or less distance, which is in each instance determined by the limit of trees, approaching the coast, along the river-banks. Along the Kus-

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[1] Die Ostgrönländer in ihrem Verhältnisse zu den übrigen Eskimostämmen. Von H. Rink. Deutsche geographische Blätter, vol. ix., No. 3, 1886, pp. 228–239.